



South-east Marine Parks Network Fishing Business Assistance Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Opening date:	26 November 2025
Closing date and time:	9:00 pm AEDT on 22 January 2026
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact the Community Grants Hub on one of the following support options: Online Contact Form: Community Grants Hub Contact Form Community Grants Hub¹ Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au Voicemail call back service: (02) 5162 6910 Questions should be sent no later than 5:00 pm AEDT on 15 January 2026
Date guidelines released:	26 November 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	Demand Driven (eligibility-based)

¹ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/form/community-grants-hub-online-cont>

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1. South-east Marine Parks Network Fishing Business Assistance: Grant Opportunity Process

The South-east Marine Parks Network Fishing Business Assistance Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is funded through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and contributes to Portfolio Budget Statement Outcome 2: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage our natural resources including through a nature positive approach; protect and conserve our natural and cultural heritage. The Director of National Parks has worked with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)².



Working with fisheries management agencies

The Director of National Parks has worked with Commonwealth and state fisheries management agencies to obtain commercial fishing catch data from the Australian Marine Parks between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2023 linked to de-identified individual fishing Authorisations.



Information provided by fisheries management agencies was assessed to determine both eligibility and the amount of a grant offer

Using the data obtained from fisheries management agencies, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) has applied the eligibility criteria in these guidelines to determine Eligible Persons and calculate the amount of assistance that may be provided.



Approval of grants to be offered

The Portfolio Minister has approved the grant amount to be offered against each Eligible Person's relevant Authorisation(s), consistent with these guidelines.



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the Grant Opportunity Guidelines on [GrantConnect](#).³



Letter(s) of Offer

Letter(s) of Offer are sent to Eligible Persons for each relevant Authorisation by the Director of National Parks or by the relevant fisheries management agency on behalf of the Director of National Parks.



Eligible Persons complete and submit a grant acceptance form

Eligible Persons may accept their offer through an online form maintained by the Community Grants Hub. Eligible Persons that wish to accept a grant offer must complete one acceptance for each relevant Authorisation for which a Letter of Offer is issued. Note: Any addenda for this grant opportunity will be published on GrantConnect, and Eligible Persons who have lodged their acceptance form on this website will be automatically notified of any changes.

² <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

³ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>



We review grant acceptance forms

We assess the submitted grant acceptance forms and ensure the necessary details are captured for payment to be made.



Payment is Made

Payment will be made into the bank account detailed in the Eligible Person's online acceptance form.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the South-east Marine Parks Network Fishing Business Assistance grants.

The grants are designed to assist commercial fishers, who are directly and negatively impacted by changes to zoning introduced by the [South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2025](#)⁴, to transition their businesses into the new operating environment.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant opportunity
- the eligibility criteria
- how grant applications are assessed.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Director of National Parks (DNP).

The Community Grants Hub will administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#)⁵.

2. About the grant program

The [South-east Marine Parks Network Draft Management Plan 2025](#)⁶ (the Plan) came into effect on 13 February 2025 and outlines how the DNP will manage the South-east Marine Parks (Marine Parks) network over the next 10 years; including through zoning arrangements that both protect Australia's marine environment and support sustainable commercial fishing.

The Australian Government recognises that some commercial fishing operators across Commonwealth, Tasmanian and South Australian fisheries have been directly and negatively impacted by changes to zoning in the Plan.

DCCEEW and DNP are delivering an assistance program through this grant opportunity for eligible commercial fishers to transition their operations to the new management arrangements.

⁴ <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/static/0a1fca1937a3392d1eecf0be90531239/south-east-network-management-plan-2025.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

⁶ <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/static/0a1fca1937a3392d1eecf0be90531239/south-east-network-management-plan-2025.pdf>

2.1 About the South-east Marine Parks Network Fishing Business Assistance Grant Opportunity

This grant opportunity will assist Eligible Persons adjust their businesses to a new operating environment created by the implementation of the South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan. An Eligible Person is a commercial fisher who meets the eligibility criteria in section 4 of these guidelines.

The Program is based on the [2019 Fishing Business Assistance Program](#)⁷, which provided assistance to commercial fishers in SA, WA, NT, QLD, NSW and Commonwealth jurisdictions, to adjust their business to the management arrangements implemented by the five new marine park management plans introduced in 2018.

These guidelines only apply to Marine Parks listed in **Appendix A** as 'affected by zoning changes' under the Plan. These guidelines do not apply to any other marine parks or reserves.

3. Grant amount and grant period

Individual grant amounts will vary. The grant amount available to an Eligible Person for a relevant Authorisation is determined through a formula that estimates five years of average profits foregone from displaced areas. It is based on the estimated average annual income foregone, using an assumed profit of 30 per cent and a term of five years being sufficient for adjustment.

Individual grant amounts are calculated as follows:

Grant amount = Estimated average annual income foregone X 30 per cent X 5 years

The ***Estimated average annual income foregone*** represents an average of the value of historical catch taken in locations where the fishing method which had been used is no longer allowed under the new South-east Marine Parks Network management arrangements as defined by the displacement method (**Appendix C**) and beach prices (**Appendix D**).

Estimated average annual income foregone is calculated from:

1. Statutory catch information extracted by the fisheries management agencies from relevant fisheries for Eligible Persons who are authorised to fish pursuant to the definition of 'authorised to fish' provided in **Appendix B** and based on:
 - a. **For Commonwealth and Tasmanian fishers:** Displaced Catch taken by that Eligible Person from time to time during the Assessment Period in the relevant fishery in which the Eligible Person was authorised to fish as at the Eligibility Time.
 - b. **For South Australian fishers:** Displaced Catch taken during the Assessment Period against the relevant Authorisation under which the Eligible Person was authorised to fish as at the Eligibility Time.
2. The weight of Displaced Catch for each financial year in the Assessment Period (generated in accordance with the Displacement Methodology at **Appendix C**).
3. The Displaced Catch value for each financial year in the Assessment Period. This was calculated by multiplying the weight of catch displaced by the established beach price

⁷ For more information on the 2019 Fishing Business Assistance Grants visit <https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=c8081b4a-c0ff-47b7-1027-9584490a0c23>

(**Appendix D**) for each species/basket and then adding the amount for each species/basket together.

4. The three financial years in the Assessment Period with the highest Displaced Catch value. The Displaced Catch value for these years was added together, and the total then divided by three to determine the estimated average annual income foregone. Where there was Displaced Catch value in only one or two years of the Assessment Period, the Displaced Catch value for these years was added together, and then the total was divided by the number of years where Displaced Catch value was available to determine the estimated average annual income foregone.

Only relevant Authorisation holders with a grant amount equal to or above \$100 (GST exclusive) per Authorisation will be made an offer. Other Authorisation holders who were assessed but whose grant amount is calculated at less than \$100 per Authorisation will not be eligible for a grant. This will reduce administrative costs associated with the program relative to total grants and ensures the bulk of funding can be directed towards Eligible Persons most affected by the Plan.

The basis of considerations under these guidelines is the information recorded by relevant fishery management agencies against relevant Authorisation(s) and the displacement methodology and beach prices at **Appendices C and D**. As statutory records, fisheries management agency records are the commonly accepted account of Authorisations and catch history data and form the basis of fisheries management throughout Australia.

Factors not considered when calculating the amount of a grant include past, recently introduced, impending or planned fishery management changes, other regulatory changes, catch data from times outside the Assessment Period, business management problems, or other personal or business circumstances.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be considered an Eligible Person, you must:

1. be 'authorised to fish' in one or more areas of the affected South-east Network Marine Parks as identified in **Appendix A**, at the Eligibility Time. A definition of 'authorised to fish' is provided at **Appendix B**.
2. have:
 - a. for Eligible Persons who are authorised to fish pursuant to the Commonwealth or Tasmanian jurisdiction definition of 'authorised to fish' in Appendix B - catch history associated with the Eligible Person from time to time during the Assessment Period in the relevant fishery in which the Eligible Person was authorised to fish as at the Eligibility Time, or
 - b. for those eligible to fish who are authorised to fish pursuant to the South Australian definition - catch history during the Assessment Period associated with the relevant Authorisation under which the Eligible Person was authorised to fish at the Eligibility Time.

In locations where the fishing method which had been used is no longer allowed (and there are not comparable areas where the method is now allowed) under the new Australian Marine Park management arrangements as defined by the displacement

methodology in **Appendix C**. The affected marine parks within the South-east Marine Parks Network Marine Parks are identified in **Appendix A**.

3. have a grant amount for the relevant Authorisation that is above a minimum threshold of \$100 for that Authorisation (see section 3)
4. have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Only Eligible Persons will be provided one or more Letter(s) of Offer and will be able to accept a grant through the online acceptance form.

If an Authorisation is owned jointly by two or more persons at the Eligibility Time, they will be treated as one Eligible Person for the purposes of these guidelines. The Grant amount will be paid in its entirety and will not be split between bank accounts.

5. How to apply

Before applying, you should read and understand these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The guidelines and additional information are found on the [GrantConnect](#)⁸ website. Any changes to grant documentation are published as addenda⁹ on GrantConnect. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

5.1 Grant acceptance process

Should Eligible Persons wish to accept the offer contained in the Letter of Offer received, they must complete and submit an acceptance form prior to the closing date and time.

Eligible Persons who receive a Letter of Offer must submit one acceptance form for each relevant Authorisation.

The Letter of Offer will include details of how to accept the offer. The Letter of Offer includes terms and conditions which must be accepted for any grant amount to become payable. Eligible Persons should retain the Letter of Offer for their records.

The acceptance form includes help information. You are responsible for making sure your acceptance form is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#)¹⁰ and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you need help regarding the acceptance process, submitting an acceptance form online, have any technical difficulties or find an error in your acceptance following submission before the closing date and time, you should contact the Community Grants Hub on one of the following support options: Online Contact Form: [Community Grants Hub Contact Form | Community Grants Hub](#)¹¹, Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au or to leave a voicemail for a call back Phone: (02) 5162

⁸ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

⁹ Addenda can include changes to existing grant opportunity documentation and/or publishing additional documents. Changes include but are not limited to corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications and system outage notices.

¹⁰ http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/cca1995115/sch1.html

¹¹ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/form/community-grants-hub-online-cont>

6910. The Community Grants Hub will not accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your acceptance after the closing time.

You cannot change your acceptance after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or something missing, we may ask you for clarification or additional information. This will not change your acceptance. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you after the acceptance period has ended.

You should keep a copy of your acceptance form and any supporting documents.

You will receive an automated notification acknowledging the receipt of your acceptance.

5.2 Attachments to the acceptance form

The following document must be attached to your application for it to be considered compliant and for it to progress:

- A copy of your received Letter of Offer

You must attach any supporting documentation according to the instructions provided within the acceptance form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments we have not requested.

5.3 Timing of grant opportunity process

Acceptance forms must be submitted by **9:00pm AEDT on 22 January 2026**.

How to lodge a late acceptance

Should you require additional time, you have up to 5 business days after the acceptance period closes to submit your acceptance form. Late submission of acceptance forms is permitted up until **9.00pm AEDT on 29 January 2025**.

Requests for submitting a late acceptance after 9.00pm AEDT on 29 January 2025 may be accepted. If you require assistance after this date, please email support@communitygrants.gov.au.

The Grant Opportunity Delegate or their appointed representative have final approval of any late acceptances.

Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Grant Opportunity Guidelines published	26 November 2025
Acceptance period – Letter of Offer sent to eligible persons	Open: 26 November 2025
Closing of acceptance period	9:00 pm AEDT 22 January 2026

5.4 Questions during the acceptance process

Only Eligible Person's questions will be responded to during the acceptance submission period. Please include your unique ID (provided in your Letter of Offer) in all correspondence with the Community Grants Hub. If you do not supply your unique ID a response to your enquiry will not be responded to.

Please contact the Community Grants Hub on one of the following support options: Online Contact Form: [Community Grants Hub Contact Form | Community Grants Hub](#)¹², Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au or to leave a voicemail for a call back Phone: (02) 5162 6910. The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within 5 working days.

Please note any questions received between 24 December 2025 and 1 January 2026 will be addressed from 2 January 2026.

The Questions and Answers document will be updated to include answers to questions and addenda will be published on [GrantConnect](#)¹³.

The question period will close at **5:00 pm AEDT on 15 January 2026**. Following this time, only questions about using and/or submitting the acceptance form will be answered.

6. The grant selection process

6.1 Review of grant applications

The Community Grants Hub will review your acceptance of the grant offer to ensure compliance and eligibility requirements are met.

6.2 Who will approve grants?

Grant offers to Eligible Persons have been approved by the Minister for the Environment.

9 Successful grant applications

9.1 Indigenous organisation type classifications

All Australian Governments are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their communities, organisations and businesses to implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) at the national, state and territory, and local levels. The National Agreement identifies 4 priority areas for reform within government. One of these is Priority Reform 2, building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

To assist government with improving and reporting on the level of community grant funding going to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, changes have been made to the way organisation data is collected. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations will now be classified into 3 groups and asked to self-identify which group they fall under. The 3 groups and their definitions are:

¹² <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/form/community-grants-hub-online-cont>

¹³ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

Group 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are incorporated, not for profit, at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Group 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Group 3: Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation	These are organisations that are at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned OR at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).

9.2

The grant agreement

To receive a grant, an Eligible Person must accept their Letter of Offer. Accepting the Letter of Offer forms the grant agreement with DCCEEW and DNP.

Eligible Persons who wish to accept an offer must:

- accept the Letter of Offer by submitting one online acceptance form for each Letter of Offer received, and provide all requested information
- consent to the release of and use by the DCCEEW, the DNP and the Community Grants Hub of their commercial fishing information for or in connection with the purpose of the Fishing Business Assistance Program; and
- attach their Letter of Offer to the acceptance form.

DCCEEW and DNP reserve the right to amend or withdraw a Letter of Offer prior to the offer being accepted.

9.3

How we pay the grant

The grant will be paid into the bank account nominated in the Eligible Persons acceptance form.

A remittance email advising the timing of payment of the grant will be sent to Eligible Persons by the Community Grants Hub.

GST will not be paid for this grant.

DCCEEW reports details of all grant payments to the Australian Tax Office.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](https://www.ato.gov.au/)¹⁴. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

¹⁴ <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

10. Announcement of grants

An aggregated program announcement will be published on the GrantConnect website no later than 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#)¹⁵.

11. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed by the DCCEEW. When this happens, the revised guidelines are published on the [GrantConnect](#)¹⁶ website.

11.1 Enquiries and feedback

Complaints about the grant process

Complaints about this grant process or the Community Grants Hub's service/s must be made in writing using the [online complaints form](#)¹⁷ on the [Department of Social Services](#)¹⁸ website, or by contacting the Department of Social Services complaints line.

Phone: 1800 634 035

Email: complaints@dss.gov.au

Mail: Complaints
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints about the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Director of National Parks grant opportunity, selection process or grant decisions

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water [suggestions, compliments and complaints](#)¹⁹ procedure apply to complaints about the grant program, selection process or grant decisions. This grant opportunity will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the DCCEEW and DNP. All complaints not specific to this grant opportunity or the Community Grants Hub's service/s (including the selection process and grant decisions) should be addressed to the Director of National Parks in writing to fishingbusinessgrants@dcceew.gov.au.

Complaints to the Ombudsman

If you do not agree with the way the Community Grants Hub, the DCCEEW or the DNP has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)²⁰. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Community Grants Hub or the DCCEEW.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

¹⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

¹⁶ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

¹⁷ <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/feedback-form>

¹⁸ <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/complaints-page>

¹⁹ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/contact/client-feedback>

²⁰ <https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

Phone (toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: <http://www.ombudsman.gov.au>.

11.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the DCCEEW and the Community Grants Hub staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel has a:

- professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your acceptance, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later think there is an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the DCCEEW and the Community Grants Hub in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the [Australian Public Service Code of Conduct \(section 13\(7\)\)](#)²¹ of the [Public Service Act 1999](#)²². Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the [Community Grants Hub website](#)²³.

11.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#)²⁴ and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#)²⁵. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

DCCEEW, the DNP and the Community Grants Hub will keep Eligible Persons' information confidential. Commercial fishing data provided as part of the Program will only be used for the delivery of the Program in accordance with data sharing agreements with each relevant fisheries

²¹ http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/psa1999152/s13.html

²² <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00538/latest/versions>

²³ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/conflict-intrest-policy>

²⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03712/latest/text>

²⁵ <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles>

management agency until such time as the Eligible Person consents to allow the release of the information (which will occur through the Acceptance Form).

Letters of offer will be issued by the Director of National Parks to Eligible Persons where data sharing rules and agreements allow for fisheries management agencies to share the necessary contact details with the Director of National Parks. Where rules or agreements do not provide for the sharing of contact details, fisheries management agencies will send Letters of Offer on behalf of the Director of National Parks.

The Australian Government may also use and give out information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

In submitting an acceptance form, you consent to DCCEEW and the Community Grants Hub the information contained in the acceptance form for the purposes mentioned above.

11.4 Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to give out to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, the Australian Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all 3 conditions below:

1. You clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential.
2. The information is commercially sensitive.
3. Revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

11.5 Freedom of information

All documents that the Australian Government has, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#)²⁶ (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give people the ability to get information held by the Australian Government and its organisations. Under the FOI Act, people can ask for documents the Australian Government has. People may not be able to get these documents if these documents need to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons who the information relates to.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Team
Government and Executive Services Branch
Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: foi@dss.gov.au.

12. Consultation

These guidelines were developed in consultation with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

The Program models the 2019 Fishing Business Assistance Program that delivered \$9.47 million in assistance to eligible South Australian, Western Australian, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and Commonwealth commercial fishers who were similarly impacted by new marine park management arrangements in 2018. The 2019 Program involved extensive consultation with multiple fishing industry bodies, fisheries management agencies and directly with fishers.

The South-east Marine Parks Network Fishing Business Assistance Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines have been informed by these consultations.

²⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A02562/latest/versions>

13. Glossary

Term	Definition
Administering Entity	Administering entity is Community Grants Hub.
Assessment Period	The seven financial years between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2023.
Australian Marine Parks	Australian Marine Parks are Commonwealth reserves in Commonwealth marine areas declared under section 344 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 ²⁷ .
Authorisation	a fishery authorisation or concession for which a person is 'authorised to fish' as defined in Appendix C .
Commonwealth entity	a department of state, or a parliamentary department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act ²⁸ .
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 ²⁹ (CGRPs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
Date Of Effect	The date the department receives the completed acceptance form.
Decision Maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant. The Minister Responsible for the Environment is the Decision Maker.
Displaced Catch	catch history from locations where the fishing method which had been used is no longer allowed under the new Australian Marine Park management arrangements (as defined by the displacement methodology in Appendix C).
Eligibility Criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant.

²⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/latest/text>

²⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2013A00123/latest/text>

²⁹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

Term	Definition
Eligibility Time	11:59pm AEDT on 12 February 2025, Relating to the South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2025 ³⁰ coming into effect from 13 February 2025
Eligible Person	as defined in section 4 Grant Eligibility criteria.
Fisheries Management Agencies	the agencies for each jurisdiction are as follows: •Commonwealth, Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) •South Australia, Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA •Tasmania, Department of Natural Resources and Environment TAS.
Grant	for the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money³¹ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund³² (CRF) money³³ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth a. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
Grant amount	refers to the amount calculated under section 3 of these guidelines.
Grant Opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
Grant Program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio Budget Statement program.

³⁰ <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/static/0a1fca1937a3392d1eecf0be90531239/south-east-network-management-plan-2025.pdf>

³¹ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

³² <https://www.finance.gov.au/about-us/glossary/pgpa/term-consolidated-revenue-fund-crf>

³³ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
GrantConnect ³⁴	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
Grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Letter of Offer	a letter sent to an Eligible Person informing that person of the offer of a grant under the Program.
Plan	means the South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2025 ³⁵ that came into effect from 13 February 2025.
Program	the Fishing Business Assistance Program.
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is the program manager. The department has been established to deliver on the government's climate change and energy agenda and protect Australia's environment and water resources.
Director of National Parks	the Director of National Parks is a corporation established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 ³⁶ , the principal Commonwealth legislation for establishing and managing protected areas. The corporation is constituted by the person appointed to the office named the Director of National Parks.

³⁴ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

³⁵ <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/static/0a1fca1937a3392d1eecf0be90531239/south-east-network-management-plan-2025.pdf>

³⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/latest/text>

Appendix A. Affected South-east Network Marine Parks

Zone changes that prohibit the use of certain fishing gear types by classifying them as not-allowed under the [South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2025](#)³⁷ (the Plan) will impact some Authorisation holders. Information on allowable gear types for each zone classification can be found in the Class Approval for Commercial fishing actions in the [South-east Marine Parks Network](#)³⁸.

The marine parks affected by zoning changes in the Plan are:

- Beagle Marine Park
- Flinders Marine Park
- Freycinet Marine Park
- Huon Marine Park
- Tasman Fracture Marine Park
- Franklin Marine Park
- Murray Marine Park

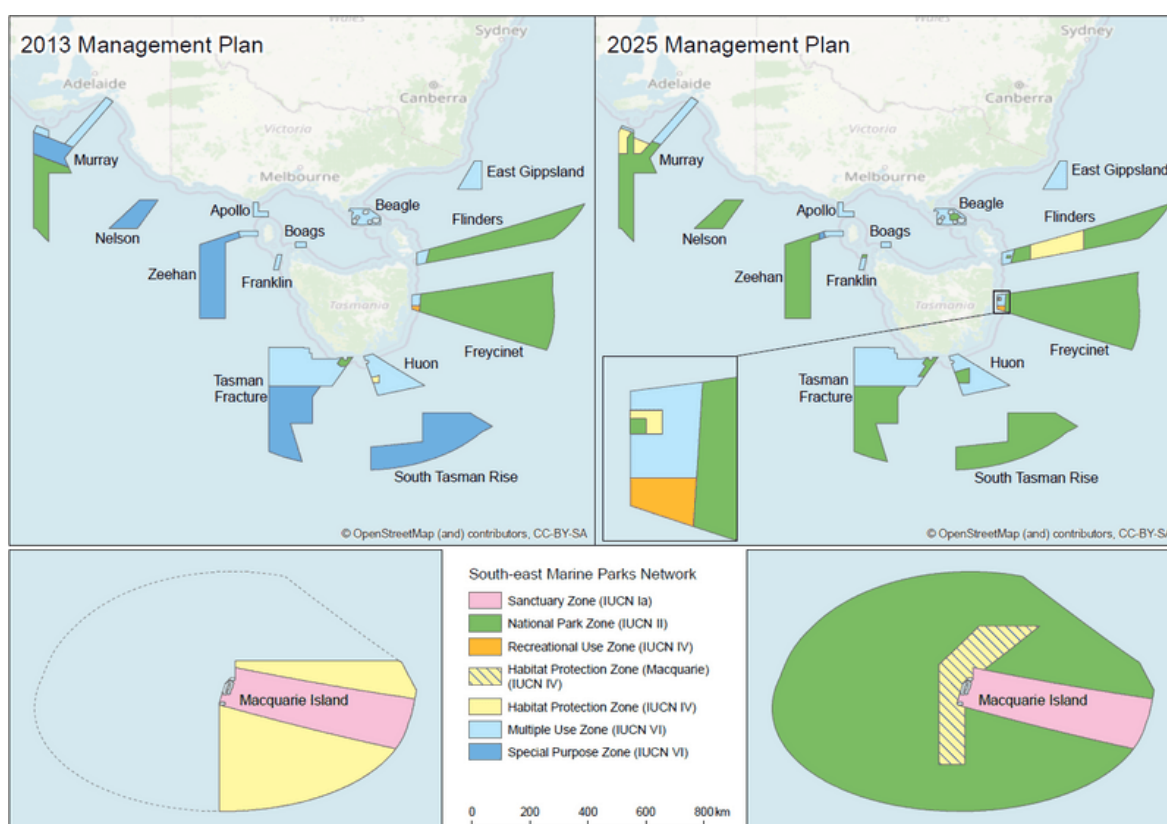


Figure 1. Comparison of zoning between the 2013–23 and 2025–35 South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan.

Note: Macquarie Island Marine Park was expanded and zoning changes made as part of a proclamation that came into effect from 1 July 2023. The 2025–2035 Management Plan zoning is identical to that which came into effect from 1 July 2023.

³⁷ <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/static/0a1fca1937a3392d1eef0be90531239/south-east-network-management-plan-2025.pdf>

³⁸ <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/static/c6ccee37df27733a56597bc4d9145008/south-east-network-commercial-fishing-class-approval-signed.pdf>

Appendix B. Definition of authorised to fish (for the purposes of the South-east Marine Parks Network Fishing Business Grant Opportunity)

Jurisdiction	Definition of authorised to fish
Commonwealth	A person is authorised to fish if the person is: 1. registered in the Register of Statutory Fishing Rights kept under section 44 of the Fisheries Management Act 1991 (Cth)³⁹ (Commonwealth Act) as the owner of an in force statutory fishing right (as defined in the Commonwealth Act), where the statutory fishing right is not leased to another person by a lease registered under section 46 of the Commonwealth Act; 2. registered in the Register of Statutory Fishing Rights kept under section 44 of the Commonwealth Act as the holder of an in force statutory fishing right (as defined in the Commonwealth Act), where the statutory fishing right is leased to the person by a lease registered under section 46 of the Commonwealth Act; 3. registered in the Register of Statutory Fishing Rights Options kept under section 31E of the Commonwealth Act as the person who holds a statutory fishing rights option (as defined in the Commonwealth Act) which has not been exercised or lapsed; or 4. registered in the Fishing Permits Register maintained under section 57G of the Commonwealth Act as the holder of a fishing permit (as defined in the Commonwealth Act).
Tasmania	A person is authorised to fish if the person is a supervisor under section 89 of the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 (TAS)⁴⁰ (TAS Act).
South Australia	A person is authorised to fish if the person is registered in the register of authorities kept under section 116 of the Fisheries Management Act 2007 (SA)⁴¹ (SA Act) as the holder of a fishery licence or a fishery permit that is issued under part 6 in the SA Act.

³⁹ https://www6.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/cth/consol_act/fma1991193/

⁴⁰ <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1995-025>

⁴¹ <https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/lz?path=%2FC%2FA%2FFISHERIES%20MANAGEMENT%20ACT%202007>

Appendix C. Displacement methodology

1. Fishing Business Assistance catch displacement methods

The following is a catalogue of methods that were used to generate the catch record summary and calculate catch displacement for the purposes of calculating Fishing Business Assistance grant amounts. The application of this methodology within each jurisdiction is specified in the sections below:

- Analysis methods were applied to each fishery or sector as a whole and not customised to the circumstances of individual businesses.
- Ancillary data and information held by fisheries management agencies may have been used in displacement estimates, for example, research sampling data, bathymetric information and vessel monitoring system data. However, data held by individual fishing businesses or other entities was not used in displacement estimates
- Calculating displacement was based on catch data collected by each jurisdiction, some of which is collected on large scale reporting grids (up to 60 minutes).

The methods fall into two types based on whether the available data are shot-by-shot (containing position information for each fishing operation) or grid based.

In line with the eligibility criteria in section 4.1, where a fishery or sector is subject to displacement in one or more areas but has also obtained a comparable increase in the area where their fishing method(s) is allowed, that fishery or sector has been excluded from displacement calculations under Appendix E. The fisheries excluded on this basis are:

- Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery (Commonwealth),
- Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (Commonwealth)
- Sardine Fishery (South Australia)

1.1 Shot-by-shot data

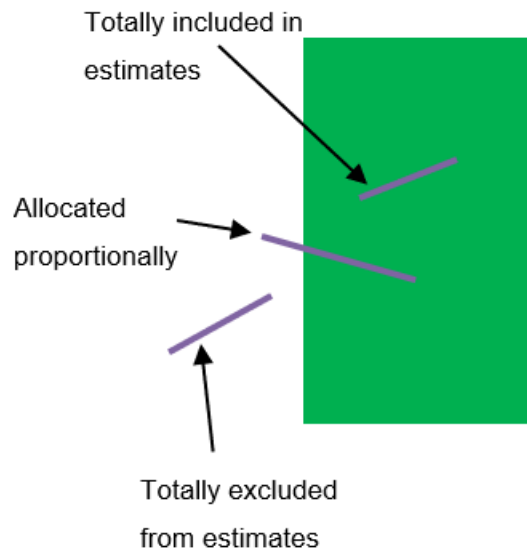
1.1. a. Single Position (point)

Fishing operations will be wholly within an Australian Marine Park or not based on the point position information of each operation. Fishing methods are then included or excluded from the assistance calculations based on the zoning framework (as per the new management Australian Marine Park management arrangements).

1.1. b. Start and end position (lines)

The position information of each operation will be converted to a line from the start and finish coordinates. Calculations of catch will be derived from operations that intersect with, or are wholly within, a marine reserve. When an operation's line intersects a marine reserve but does not fall entirely within the marine reserve, the catch and GVP for that operation will be allocated in proportion to the length of line within the reserve (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Illustration of treatment of fishing operations (lines) in relation to reserve boundaries



Note: The green area represents an Australian Marine Park, and the purple lines indicate lines of fishing operations. Fishing operations can be entirely in the park, entirely outside it, or partially inside it; those that cross the park boundary should have their potentially displaced catch and GVP allocated proportionally. Source: ABARES

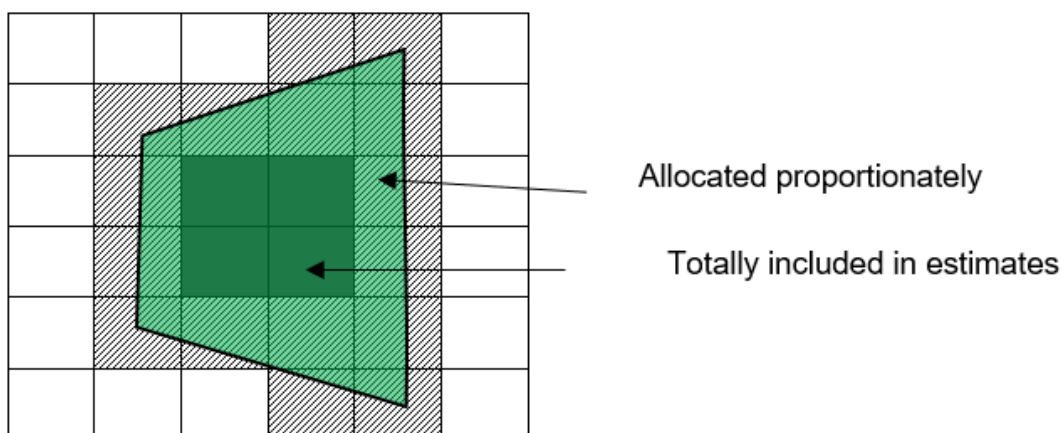
1.2 Grid data

Grid data is available at different scales for different fisheries and jurisdictions (6 minute, 10 minute, 30 minute and 60 minute grids). The following spatial processing methods will be adopted to calculate catch displacement.

1.2. a. Basic proportional area

The displaced catch from a grid cell is in proportion to the area of the grid that is occupied by the Australian Marine Park. This approach assumes fishing was distributed uniformly within the block.

Figure 2. Illustration of treatment of grid-reported fishing data in relation to Australian Marine Park boundaries



Note: The green area represents an Australian Marine Park, the black grid represents the grid fishers report on, the hatched cells represent cells that partially overlap the park, and the darkest cells represent cells completely inside the park. Cells that are entirely inside the park have their entire catch or GVP included in calculations, while those that partially overlap a

park have their catch or GVP included in proportion to the amount of overlap (e.g. if 20% of a cell was inside a park, 20% of its catch or GVP would be allocated to the park). Source: ABARES

1.2. b. Depth stratified (simple)

Where information is available on the depths in which fishing occurs, the reporting grids will be cropped to include only those fishing depths so as to more accurately reflect where fishing activity occurred. The proportional area approach is then applied to the cropped grids.

Appendix D. Beach price calculation methods and beach prices

Beach price calculation methods

The following methods have been used to develop beach prices for each jurisdiction for the purposes of calculating Fishing Business Assistance. Ideally, nominal prices for 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23 were collected for all relevant species from each jurisdiction. The nominal price used is defined as the 'beach price' received for the species at its first landing point and not the value-added components—such as processing and packaging, transport and marketing margins—as the product moves through the supply chain ([ABARES 2023](#)⁴²).

All nominal prices were adjusted using consumer price index (CPI) to projected June quarter 2025 prices.

Ideally, the final price identified for a jurisdiction is the average real price (in June quarter 2025 dollars) over three years. Where there was no price data for a particular year then that year was omitted from the three-year average. Where no price data was available for a jurisdiction then the final price from an adjacent jurisdiction or jurisdictions was applied. Failing this, a price for an analogous (taxonomically) species was applied.

All prices are in Australian dollars.

Detail for each jurisdiction is provided below.

⁴² ABARES 2023, Economic concepts in Australian fisheries and aquaculture statistics – Fishery gross value of production (GVP) in Tuynman, H, Cao A, Dylewski, M and Curtotti, R 2023, Australian fisheries and aquaculture statistics 2022, FRDC, ABARES, Canberra.

Commonwealth prices

The nominal price data provided by ABARES reflects various sources including fishers, seafood markets and seafood buyers and processors. Selected prices for 2020–21 and 2021–22 are reported in [Tuyman et al \(2022\)](#)⁴³ and 2022–23 prices are unpublished.

Table 1: Commonwealth price per whole weight kilogram applying to affected fisheries/sectors for the top 10 species by displacement volume.

Fishery	Name	Price
Eastern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fisheries	Albacore	\$4.10
	Shortfin Mako	\$11.26
	Swordfish	\$2.14
	Yellowfin Tuna	\$14.02
	Southern Bluefin Tuna	\$7.59
Gillnet Hook and Trap	Blue-eye Trevalla	\$15.13
	Boarfishes	\$4.55
	Broadnose Shark	\$2.55
	Gummy Shark	\$9.51
	Pink Ling	\$9.03
	Bigeye Ocean Perch	\$3.41
	Ribaldo	\$2.28
	Common Sawshark	\$3.72
	Sawsharks	\$3.72
	School Shark	\$8.62

⁴³ Tuyman, H, Cao, A, Dylewski, M and Curtotti, R 2023, Australian fisheries and aquaculture statistics 2022, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, ABARES, Canberra.

South Australia Prices

For South Australian fisheries nominal prices for 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23 have been supplied by the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA). The final price was calculated by converting these prices to real prices (forecast June quarter 2025 consumer price index) then averaging the real prices of the three reference years.

Table 2: South Australia price per whole weight kilogram applying to affected fisheries/sectors of the top 10 species by displacement volume.

Fishery	Species	Price
Giant Crab	Giant Crab	\$120.35
Scalefish	Bight Redfish	\$11.25
	School Shark	\$12.71
	Gummy Shark	\$13.70
	Bronze Whaler Shark	\$9.88
	Snook	\$8.26
	Ocean Leatherjacket	\$4.00
	Yellow-eye Mullet	\$8.46
	Leatherjacket	\$13.28
	Parrotfish	\$8.64
	Other Rays and Skates	\$4.23

Tasmania Prices

For Tasmanian fisheries (excluding Rock Lobster) nominal prices for 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23 have been supplied by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (Tas NRE). The final price was calculated by converting these prices to real prices (forecast June quarter 2025 consumer price index) then averaging the real prices of the three reference years.

For the Tasmanian Rock Lobster fishery: Nominal prices from 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23 have been supplied by Tas NRE. The final price was calculated by converting these prices to real prices (forecast June quarter 2025 consumer price index) then averaging the real prices of the seven reference years

Tas NRE explanatory notes: “Beach prices” for each fishery (Giant Crab, Rock Lobster, Scalefish) are established as an aggregate of prices from a sample of pricing paid by fish processors during the fishing year and provided to the Tas NRE. The list of beach prices held by the Department thus provides a general indication of prices for Tasmania rather than the specific pricing obtained by a particular licensed fisher/ entitlement holder from a particular processor(s), or obtained at a particular time of the fishing year.

Table 3: Tasmania price per whole weight kilogram applying to affected fisheries/sectors of the top 10 species by displacement volume.

Fishery	Species	Price
Octopus	Pale Octopus	\$11.97
	Gloomy Octopus	\$12.62
	Maori Octopus	\$12.32
Giant Crab	Giant Crab	\$120.35
Scalefish	Banded Morwong	\$35.90
	Bluethroat Wrasse	\$12.99
	Purple Wrasse	\$16.18
	Southern Calamari	\$17.44
	Jackass Morwong	\$7.00
	Longsnout Boarfish	\$7.24
	Striped Trumpeter	\$20.17
	Bastard Trumpeter	\$10.79
	Gummy Shark	\$15.00
	Southern Sand Flathead	\$12.67
Rock Lobster	Southern Rock Lobster	\$82.92

Appendix E. Fisheries calculation methods

Table 1: Commonwealth Fisheries Business Assistance catch displacement calculation methods

Fishery	spatial resolution of data	processing method
Eastern tuna and billfish fishery	Shot-by-shot	1.1b (lines)
Commonwealth trawl sector (SESSF)	Shot-by-shot	1.1b (lines) (excluded)
Gillnet hook and trap sector (SESSF)	Shot-by-shot	1.1.a (points) and 1.1.b (lines) as appropriate
Small pelagic fishery	Shot-by-shot	1.1.a (points) and 1.1.b (lines) as appropriate (excluded)
Southern bluefin tuna fishery	Shot-by-shot	1.1a (points) (excluded)
Southern squid jig fishery	Shot-by-shot	1.1a (points) (excluded)
Western tuna and billfish fishery	Shot-by-shot	1.1b (lines)

Table 2: South Australian Fisheries Business Assistance catch displacement calculation methods

FISHERY	SPATIAL RESOLUTION OF DATA	PROCESSING METHOD
Giant crab fishery	Gridded (variable size – max 60 min grids)	1.2a, 1.2b Depth strata 200-350m
Marine scalefish fishery	Gridded (variable size – max 60 min grids)	1.2a
Rock lobster fishery	Gridded (variable size – max 60 min grids)	1.2a, 1.2b Depth strata >200m (excluded)
Sardine fishery	Gridded (variable size – max 60 min grids)	1.2a (excluded)

Table 3 – Tasmanian Fisheries Business Assistance catch displacement calculation methods

FISHERY	SPATIAL RESOLUTION OF DATA	PROCESSING METHOD
Giant crab fishery	7.5 min grid	1.2a
Octopus fishery	7.5 min grid	1.2a
Rock lobster fishery	7.5 min grid	1.2a
Scalefish fishery	Gridded (variable size – max 30 min grids)	1.2a
Scallop fishery	7.5 min grid	1.2a (excluded)